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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/749,175

12/27/2000

Rohn Bowden

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03/16/2006

Richard L Mayer Esq
Kenyon & Kenyon
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004

EXAMINER

WHIPKEY, JASON T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,175

Applicant(s)

BOWDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Jason T. Whipkey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 7 and 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Drawings

2. A replacement drawing was received on January 17, 2006. This drawing is approved and the corresponding objection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

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the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boers (U.S. Patent No. 5,418,567) in view of Schieltz (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,087) and further in view of McLean (U.S. Patent No. 3,841,643).

Regarding **claim 1**, Boers discloses a camera assembly (see Figure 1) which comprises:

a housing (surveillance camera system 10) having sidewalls (truncated cone 14) to which is attached an optical surface (dome 50), the housing enclosing a camera system (camera 55), wherein the optical surface is a dome that is rotatable relative to the housing in a closed, coupled engagement after the camera system is positioned in the housing (see column 3, line 65, through column 4, line 14).

Boers is silent with regard to the housing including a mounting cap attached to the sidewalls.

Schieltz discloses a camera enclosure, as shown in Figure 1. The enclosure includes cover 18 attached to the main body of the enclosure by spacers 181.

An advantage of including a cover on the top of a camera housing is that the equipment inside may be protected. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Boers's camera assembly include the cover disclosed by Schieltz.

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Both Boers and Schieltz are silent with regard to including a circumferential seal with a first groove. McLean discloses a seal for rotating members (see column 1, lines 25-31), wherein two parts are:

coupled by a circumferential seal (10) that has a first groove (22), one part (connected to ring part 14) being movable in the first groove of the seal (via strips 24; see column 2, lines 4-38).

As stated in column 2, lines 49-53, an advantage of this arrangement is that one part can rotate relative to the other part while preventing the passage of air or liquids through the seal. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Boers's and Schieltz's devices perform coupling using a circumferential seal with a groove.

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boers in view of McLean.

Regarding **claim 2**, Boers discloses a camera assembly (see Figure 1) having:

a housing (surveillance camera system 10) which comprises an optical dome (dome 50) rotatable relative to the housing in a closed, coupled engagement (see column 3, line 65, through column 4, line 14).

Boers is silent with regard to engaging the dome using a circumferential seal with a first groove. McLean discloses a seal for rotating members (see column 1, lines 25-31), including:

wherein the circumferential seal (10) that has a first groove (22), one part (connected to ring part 14) being movable in the first groove of the seal (via strips 24; see column 2, lines 4-38).

As stated in column 2, lines 49-53, an advantage of this arrangement is that one part can rotate relative to the other part while preventing the passage of air or liquids through the seal. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Boers's device perform coupling using a circumferential seal with a groove.

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boers in view of Schieltz and McLean and further in view of Kutman (U.S. Patent No. 4,736,218).

Claim 5 may be treated like claim 1. Additionally, Boers teaches that the optical surface is a substantially opaque dome with a transparent window (see column 4, lines 1-3). However, Boers is silent with regard to rotating the dome until the camera is aligned with the transparent window.

Kutman discloses a camera support and housing with a dome-shaped enclosure 12 including glass window 22 (see column 4, lines 36-45, and Figure 5). When the window and the dome are mismatched, dome enclosure 12 rotates faster than the contained camera in order to align the camera with the window (see column 11, line 62, through column 12, line 6).

An advantage of rotating the dome to align a window with a camera is that the camera's functionality will be ensured, as it will never be blocked by the opaque section of the dome. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made to have Boers's camera assembly include the dome rotation correction described by Kutman.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,456) in view of Boers and McLean.

Regarding **claim 6**, Ryan discloses a camera assembly that comprises:

a camera housing (Figure 1A) having a mounting cap (140) attached to a top wall (120), and sidewalls (126) to which is attached an optical surface (135), the camera housing enclosing a camera system (see column 3, lines 49-50); and
an environmental shroud (190) attached to the camera housing and effective to reflect and/or deflect heat energy (see column 3, lines 60-66), dissipate heat energy not reflected or deflected (see column 4, lines 3-6), and protect the camera housing from the ingress of moisture (see column 3, lines 53-54).

Ryan is silent with regard to including an rotatable optical dome.

Boers discloses:

an optical dome (dome 50) rotatable relative to a housing in a closed, coupled engagement (see column 3, line 65, through column 4, line 14).

An advantage of including a rotatable dome is that the camera can be concealed while still allowing it to shoot from any direction. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Ryan's camera rotate, as described by Boers.

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Boers is silent with regard to engaging the dome using a circumferential seal with a first groove. McLean discloses a seal for rotating members (see column 1, lines 25-31), including:

wherein the circumferential seal (10) that has a first groove (22), one part (connected to ring part 14) being movable in the first groove of the seal (via strips 24; see column 2, lines 4-38).

As stated in column 2, lines 49-53, an advantage of this arrangement is that one part can rotate relative to the other part while preventing the passage of air or liquids through the seal. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Boers's device perform coupling using a circumferential seal with a groove.

9. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan in view of Boers and McLean and further in view of Kutman.

Claim 9 may be treated like claim 1. Additionally, Boers teaches that the optical surface is a substantially opaque dome with a transparent window (see column 4, lines 1-3). However, Boers is silent with regard to rotating the dome until the camera is aligned with the transparent window.

Kutman discloses a camera support and housing with a dome-shaped enclosure 12 including glass window 22 (see column 4, lines 36-45, and Figure 5). When the window and the dome are mismatched, dome enclosure 12 rotates faster than the contained camera in order to align the camera with the window (see column 11, line 62, through column 12, line 6).

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An advantage of rotating the dome to align a window with a camera is that the camera's functionality will be ensured, as it will never be blocked by the opaque section of the dome. For this reason, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Ryan's camera assembly include the dome rotation correction described by Kutman.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 are allowed.

Regarding **claims 3, 4, 7, and 8**, no prior art could be located that teaches or fairly suggests a camera assembly having a housing with a circumferential seal attached to a circumferential flange, wherein the circumferential seal has an S-shaped cross section and two grooves, each containing a flange portion.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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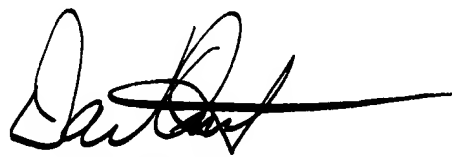
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Whipkey, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7321. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. eastern standard time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz, can be reached at (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTW
JTW
March 9, 2006



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER